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AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF EAST CHINA

Ching-chi Tao-pao, (Economic Bulletin)
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[Summary: On a national basis, the East China Area ranks first as a silk-producing region, with Chekiang Province providing over one half of the silk production for the region. In oil crop production, soybeans are the main crop and Shantung is the leader in total output. East China also leads in the growing of tea, is second in tobacco production, and had fishing yields of 900,000 tons in 1952.]

Silk

East China is the greatest silk producing region of the nation, but during the war, this area was systematically destroyed by the Japanese. In the 3 years since liberation, East China has gradually been restored and has made much progress.

Silk production of East China, taking 1949 production as 100, was 189 in 1952, and the number of households in which silkworms were raised doubled in that period. The average production for each tray of silkworms in 1952 was 172 (based on 1949 as 100). Of the provinces of East China, Chekiang leads in silk production, its output being more than one half for the total production in this area.

In seasonal production, the spring output is higher than the fall. Taking the annual production as 100, the spring production is 82 and the fall production is 18.

Cocoon Production From Domestic Silkworms
(Based on preliberation production as 100)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Fall</u>
1950	140	134
1951	153	138
1952	172	149

Taking the total East China production as 100, the 1952 domestic silk production figures for the silk producing provinces are: Chekiang 60, Kiangsu 33, Shantung 6, and Anhwei 1. Wild silk is also produced in Shantung by many farmers as a secondary industry.

Oil Crops

East China has abundant and varied oil crops. Soybeans are the main crop in this area, and Shantung Province produces almost one half of the total East China oil crop production.

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Oil Crop Distribution in East China

Crop	East China Oil Crop Output as 100	Oil Crop Output in Each Province as 100				
		Shantung	Kiangsu	Anhwei	Chekiang	Fukien
Soybeans	65.1	65.4	59.3	78.0	6.1	46.5
Peanuts	14.9	23.3	8.3	4.2	50.0	42.2
Sesame Seeds	1.4	0.7	--	4.1	--	--
Tea Seeds	6.3	--	9.0	9.0	34.0	11.0
Cottonseed	11.8	10.5	23.0	4.5	16.0	--

Taking the total East China oil crop production as 100, comparative figures for the individual provinces are: Shantung 47.7, Kiangsu 21.3, Anhwei 22.5, Chekiang 6.1, and Fukien 2.5.

According to estimates, East China produces about 2,200,000 piculs of peanut oil and about 1,700,000 piculs of soybean oil annually. With the addition of oil produced from tea seed, cottonseed, and sesame seed, the total East China oil production is estimated to be 7-8 million piculs annually. Even though soybeans are the largest oil seed crop in East China, the production of oil from soybeans is considerably less than from peanuts since large quantities of soybeans are shipped out of the area.

East China Edible Oil Production
(Based on oil total production as 100)

Type	Entire Area	Shantung	Kiangsu	Anhwei	Chekiang	Fukien
Peanuts	31.2	23.0	3.7	2.3	--	2.0
Soybeans	25.6	12.4	4.5	7.0	1.5	--
Rapeseed	25.0	4.5	7.5	8.2	7.7	1.3
Cottonseed	11.2	0.1	4.5	1.0	0.1	--
Sesame Seed	7.0	--	0.1	--	--	--

Tea

East China also ranks first as the tea producing region in the nation. According to 1952 statistics, East China tea production was one half of the national total. Chekiang and Anhwei are the main tea producing provinces in the area. Their combined tea output is 87 percent of the total East China production, and approximately four ninths of the national production. Tea is grown in almost the entire province of Chekiang whereas in Anhwei production is concentrated in the southern portion of the province. Percentage of national tea production for the administrative areas of China in 1952 is as follows: East China 50, Central-South China 38, the Southwest 11, and the Northwest one. The production of tea in the provinces of East China in 1952 was: Chekiang 46.2 percent, Anhwei 40.8 percent, Fukien 12.9 percent, and Kiangsu 0.1 percent.

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Although the production of green tea in East China is still predominant, in recent years the red tea output has been gradually increasing because of exports to the Soviet Union and to the East European countries which are markets for this particular type of tea. Also, the world market for green tea has been shrinking year by year.

In East China, green tea is grown in Fukien; Chekiang and Anhwei have been mainly producing green tea, with red tea secondary, but in the past 2 years key areas have switched to growing red tea. Taking East China's total production as 100, the output of tea in 1952 was: green tea 70.63, red tea 27.59, black tea 1.77, and white tea Pa-ch'a 0.01

Tobacco

In 1952, East China tobacco production, which is second highest in the nation, was six times that of the prewar period and 40 percent of the total national output. Several varieties of tobacco are grown in the East China area. Sun-cured type tobacco is grown in all the provinces of the area and flue-cured type tobacco is grown fairly extensively in Shantung and Anhwei. These two types provide the main raw material for the manufacture of cigarettes. Turkish type tobacco for the manufacture of cigars is grown in Chekiang; foreign aromatic tobaccos, such as "Sha-mu-hsun," K'a-te-na," "Ssu-mei-na," etc., are grown in the Hsin-ch'ang area of Chekiang.

In 1935, the Chinese export and import of tobacco was in the approximate ratio of 14 to 11, that is, exports exceeded imports slightly. In 1946, the volume of imported tobacco was 19 times that of exported tobacco, and in 1947, tobacco imports were 21 times the exports. In the 2 years of 1946 and 1947, China's tobacco exports were only one fourteenth of the amount exported in the prewar period, and imports had increased 100 percent over the prewar level.

After liberation, conditions were changed. Beginning in 1950, exports began to exceed imports, and in the last 2 years have shown great increases. The ratios of exports and imports were: in 1950, 3.5:0.5; in 1951, 31:1; in 1952, there were no imports. In 1952, exports were over 100 percent greater than for the prewar period and 30-31 times that of the 1946-47 export figure.

Fish

With the exception of Anhwei all the provinces of East China border the sea. The coastline of these provinces totals 7,100 kilometers and there are about 800,000 square kilometers of fishing grounds. In addition, East China has 31 million mou of fresh water fishing grounds. According to the most conservative estimates, the annual yields of the East China fishing areas should total more than 3 million tons. According to 1952 statistics, there are 50,000 fresh-water fishing boats and 130,000 salt-water fishing boats in East China. In 1952, fishing yields amounted to 900,000 tons.

Conclusion

On an annual basis, the rich agricultural resources of East China can provide the following for each inhabitant of the area: 3 shih-mou of arable land, 600 catties of grain, 4 catties of cotton (enough for 3.5 feet of cotton cloth), 0.5 catty of silk (enough for 1.5 silk undershirts), 6 catties of oil, 10 chicken eggs, 15 catties of pork, and 13 catties of sea food.

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